

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-05 SS-15 SEC-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON:MMW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION
REF: (A) SAN JOSE 1545; (B) BUENOS AIRES 2235
1. DOCUMENTS CITED REFTEL B HAVE BEEN POUCH-ED-TO EMBASSY.
DEPT. BELIEVES INFORMATION ON VESCO'S TRAVELS, WHICH WAS
PUBLIC AT THE TIME, CAN BE PROVIDED TO DR. ORTIZ.

2. DURING APRIL 5 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPART-
MENT OFFICERS AND DR. ORTIZ, ORTIZ INDICATED A GREAT DEAL
OF INTEREST IN GETTING THE COMPLETE RPT COMPLETE ITALIAN
CITIZENSHIP FILE ON ROBERT VESCO, BUT MADE NO REFERENCE TO
THE ARGENTINE OR BRAZILIAN ASPECTS OF THE EARLIER REQUEST
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FOR INFORMATION HE MADE TO U.S. ATTORNEY ROBERT FISKE.
THIS EMPHASIS, VIEWED IN CONJUNCTION WITH BUENOS AIRES'
CONCERN (REFTEL B) THAT A LOCAL SEARCH WOULD NOT PRODUCE
INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL IN COURT PROCEEDINGS
BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED, LEADS US TO
CONCLUDE WE SHOULD NOT PURSUE FURTHER THIS ISSUE, OTHER
THAN TO PASS ORTIZ PUBLIC INFORMATION FROM CABLES WHICH

HAVE BEEN POUCHED.

3. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH SAN JOSE THAT INFORMATION PRODUCED BY EMBASSY BRASILIA'S INQUIRIES SHOULD BE CABLED TO SAN JOSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SAN JOSE IS AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF ORTIZ ON RELEVANT AND PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE TRANSMITTED.

4. WITH REGARD TO ORTIZ'S REQUEST FOR THE ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP FILE, DEPT. BELIEVES THE REQUEST IS STATED TOO BROADLY, AND WOULD, IF TRANSMITTED BY THE U.S., APPEAR TO BE A U.S. FISHING EXPEDITION ON BEHALF OF DR. ORTIZ. IN ADDITION TO CONCERN ABOUT THE BREADTH OF THE REQUEST, DEPT. ALSO IS RELUCTANT TO INSTRUCT EMBASSY ROME TO MAKE ANY SUCH REQUEST IN VIEW OF THE CORRESPONDENCE ALREADY IN DEPT. FILES WHICH SHOWS THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES VESCO HAS A VALID CLAIM TO ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP. THE PROSPECT OF THE U.S. SEARCHING OUT INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE USED TO REBUT VESCO'S CLAIM TO ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP IN A THIRD COUNTRY IS NOT AN ATTRACTIVE ONE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE UNFOCUSED NATURE OF THE REQUEST. WE BELIEVE ORTIZ MIGHT DO BETTER TO FOCUS HIS EFFORTS ON VESCO'S OMISSION OF ANY MENTION OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP IN HIS PETITION FOR COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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